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a second member for retaining a thin film placed across said second end of said first member, said second member having a generally cylindrical wall which completely surrounds said wall of said first member when said members are assembled together, and a circumferentially extending bead projecting from an inner surface of said wall;

wherein, when said first and second members are assembled to retain the thin film placed across said second end of said first member, said bead on said inner surface of said wall of second member slides along said outer surface of said wall of said first member and pulls an overhanging portion of the thin film down around said outer surface of said wall of said first member thereby progressively increasing the tautness of the thin film extending across the second end of the first member, the tautness of the film being maintained when said bead enters said recess and locks the first and second members together.

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22.(NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 21, wherein said first end of said first member is provided with an endwall, said endwall defining a centrally disposed reduced thickness region which is pierceable to permit atmospheric venting of said sealed cup.

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23.(NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 22, further comprising a substantially cylindrical wall extending from said annular flange, said end wall and said substantially cylindrical wall defining a reservoir for containing heat sensitive liquid samples.

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24.(NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 21, further comprising gripping means on said wall of said second member for providing a place to manually grip the second member during assembly of said cup.

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25. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 24, wherein said gripping means comprises an outwardly extending gripping flange.

26. (NEW) A cup assembly for holding a sample to be analyzed spectrochemically, comprising:

a first member forming a sample cell, said first member having a generally cylindrical wall which extends between a first end and a second end thereof, and an outwardly extending annular flange unitarily formed with said first end;

a second member having a generally cylindrical wall which completely surrounds said wall of said first member when said members are assembled together; and

film retaining means associated with said wall of each of said first and second members, for progressively increasing the tautness of a thin film placed across the second end of said first member,

wherein, when said first and second members are assembled to retain the thin film placed across said second end of said first member, said film retaining means associated with each of said walls pulls an overhanging portion of the thin film down around said wall of said first member thereby progressively increasing the tautness of the thin film extending across the second end of the first member.

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27. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 26, wherein said film retaining means comprises a recess extending circumferentially about an outer surface of said wall of said first member and a circumferentially extending bead projecting from an inner surface of said wall of said second member.

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28. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 26, wherein said film retaining means comprises a frustoconically shaped outer surface defined by said wall of said first member that converges continuously from said first end to said second

end and a frustoconically shaped inner surface which converges continuously from a first end to a second end of said second member.

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29. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 26, wherein said first end of said first member is provided with an endwall, said endwall defining a centrally disposed reduced thickness region which is pierceable to permit atmospheric venting of said sealed cup.

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30. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 29, further comprising a substantially cylindrical wall extending from said annular flange, said end wall and said substantially cylindrical wall defining a reservoir for containing heat sensitive liquid samples.

31. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 26, further comprising gripping means on said wall of said second member for providing a place to manually grip the second member during assembly of said cup.

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32. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 31, wherein said gripping means comprises an outwardly extending gripping flange.

33. (NEW) A cup assembly for holding a sample to be analyzed spectrochemically, comprising:

a first member forming a sample cell, said first member having a generally cylindrical wall which extends between a first end and a second end thereof, and an outwardly extending annular flange unitarily formed with said first end;

a second member having a generally cylindrical wall which completely surrounds said wall of said first member when said members are assembled together; and

gripping means on said wall of said second member for providing a place to manually grip the second member during assembly of said cup.

14 34.(NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 33, wherein said gripping means comprises an outwardly extending gripping flange.

15 35.(NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 33, further comprising film retaining means associated with said wall of each of said first and second members, for progressively increasing the tautness of a thin film placed across the second end of said first member wherein, when said first and second members are assembled to retain the thin film placed across said second end of said first member, said film retaining means associated with each of said walls pulls an overhanging portion of the thin film down around said wall of said first member thereby progressively increasing the tautness of the thin film extending across the second end of the first member.

16 36.(NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 35, wherein said film retaining means comprises a recess extending circumferentially about an outer surface of said wall of said first member and a circumferentially extending bead projecting from an inner surface of said wall of said second member.

17 37.(NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 35, wherein said film retaining means comprises a frustoconically shaped outer surface defined by said wall of said first member that converges continuously from said first end to said second end and a frustoconically shaped inner surface which converges continuously from a first end to a second end of said second member.

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38. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 13,
wherein said first end of said first member is provided with an
endwall, said endwall defining a centrally disposed reduced
thickness region which is pierceable to permit atmospheric
venting of said sealed cup.

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19 39. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 18,
further comprising a substantially cylindrical wall extending
from said annular flange, said end wall and said substantially
cylindrical wall defining a reservoir for containing heat
sensitive liquid samples.

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20 40. (NEW) The cup assembly according to claim 15,
wherein said film retaining means comprises:
a frustoconically shaped outer surface defined by said
wall of said first member that converges continuously from said
first end to said second end, said outer surface including a
recess extending circumferentially thereabout; and
a frustoconically shaped inner surface which converges
continuously from a first end to a second end of said second
member, said inner surface including a circumferentially
extending bead projecting therefrom.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled herein.

Claims 21-40 have been added herein.

The applicant hereby notifies the examiner that this
application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Patent
Application 08/292,058 entitled APPARATUS FOR TRIMLESS SAMPLE CUP
USED IN X-RAY SPECTROSCOPY, filed August 17, 1994 by Monte J.
Solazzi, which was issued a notice of allowance on April 10,
1995.